Energy production through wind mills

396. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the energy production in Tamil Nadu is not sufficient to face the energy needs of the State;

(b) whether Government is having any proposal to increase the energy production of Tamil Nadu through wind mills in future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has been promoting commercial grid connected wind power projects through private sector investment in wind potential states including Tamil Nadu by providing fiscal incentives, loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and other financial institutions. Technical support, including detailed wind resource assessment to identify further potential sites, is provided by Ministryus Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET), Chennai. This apart, preferential tariff is being provided to increase wind energy generatton in the potential States including Tamil Nadu. Wind power installation has been progressively increasing in the state of Tamilnadu, which has reached to 4,563 MW by October, 2009. Tamil Nadu is the leading state in wind power development in the country.

Chinese nationals working in power projects

397. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that the working of 30,000 Chinese nationais in various power projects in the country on business visa is against the norms;

(b) if so, the details of Chinese workers working in various power and other projects under his Ministry and since how long they are working;

(c) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has interceded in the matter and requested the Ministry of Home Affairs not to repatriate the illegal workers and requested to convert their business visa into employment visa; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) As informed by Ministry of External Affairs, the existing Visa regulations, business visa does not permit nationais of other countries to work in India. In view of the significant number of foreign personnel, including Chinese nationais, coming for turn-key project contracts, the Government

realized the potential for the existing business visa regime being misused by foreign workers coming for long period of work / stay in India. In order to stop this misuse, the Government decided in July 2009 that business visa will henceforth be issued only to *bona fide* businessmen and that business visa holders currently employed in India will have to apply again properly for employment visas. Those who were taking up employment in India were asked to leave India by 31 October, 2009 and apply for employment visa in order to return for project-related work. Indian Mission and Posts in China have been advised to exercise due diligence and ensure strict enforcement of the provisions contained in the Visa Manual with regard to the issuance of business and employment visas. Based on the information received from Ministry of External Affairs, the details of business visas issued to Chinese nationals during the last five years are as follows:-

Year	Business visas issued to Chinese Nationals
2004	15979
2005	22427
2006	33960
2007	48146
2008	58658
2009 (Upto October)	38924

(c) and (d) 4000 MW capacity of power projects with Chinese equipment are scheduled for commissioning during the balance period of 2009-10 and more next year. These projects are in the advanced stage of commissioning and urgently required the services of Chinese engineers for the commissioning activities. Due to non-availability of the commissioning engineers from Chinese companies, these projects are likely to slip thus adversely affecting the commissioning programme of power projects for the year 2009-10. Ministry of Power has, therefore, requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to expedite issuing of employment visas to the Chinese engineers so that plants can be completed on time.

Release of Electricity connections to BPL families

398. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects covering release of electricity connections to BPL families in West Bengal being implemented during the last two years, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) by when the above projects are going to be completed; and

(c) the amount allocated and sanctioned, so far, for the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) 13 Projects in X Plan and 15 Projects in XI Plan covering electrification of un/de-electrified villages, intensive electrification of electrified villages and release of BPL connections, were